

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 08699 141046Z

15

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6881

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS/G&F

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR ETRD CZ HU

SUBJECT: WHEAT TRADE

REF: FASTO 72

1. HUNGARY'S 1975-76 WHEAT EXPORTS WILL BE DOWN SHARPLY FROM 934,000 TONS IN 1974. COUNTRY IN 1975 HARVESTED ONE MILLION TONS LESS WHEAT THAN IN 1974. EXPORT AVAILABILITIES MAY RANGE BETWEEN 300,000 TO 400,000 TONS WHICH MOST LIKELY WILL GO TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND OTHER CMEA MEMBERS PLUS ESTIMATED 10,000 TONS TO SWITZERLAND. HUNGARY RECENTLY CONCLUDED LONG TERM TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA REPORTEDLY COVERING OVER 200,000 TONS GRAIN EXPORTS YEARLY FROM HUNGARY. SO FAR IN 1975 (SEPT.) HUNGARY EXPORTED ABOUT 350,000 TONS WHEAT CHIEFLY TO CMEA, AND DOES NOT EXPECT SHIP MORE DURING REMAINDER 1975. IN 1974 CMEA COUNTRIES BOUGHT 80 PERCENT HUNGARY'S WHEAT EXPORT.

2. CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DESPITE ITS POOR GRAIN HARVEST IN 1975-ESTIMATED ABOUT ONE MIL TONS LESS
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WHEAT THAN IN 1974-DOES NOT INTEND STEP UP FOREIGN

PURCHASES IN 1975-76 BEYOND LAST YEAR LEVELS.
COUNTRY REPORTEDLY HAS ADEQUATE RESERVES FROM RECORD
1974 CROP. CALENDAR YEAR WHEAT IMPORTS AMOUNTED
664,000 TONS, TWO-THIRDS FROM USSR AND ONE-THIRD
FROM HUNGARY UNDER LONG TERM AGREEMENT. SAME PATTERN
IMPORTS EXPECTED CONTINUE IN 1975-76.
HOWEVER TRADE SOURCES SPECULATE CZECHOSLOVAKIA MAY
BE ON MARKET FOR ADDITIONAL 200,000 TO 300,000 TONS
WHEAT FROM WEST. THESE IMPORTS HOWEVER IF
CONSUMMATED LIKELY BE INDIRECT THROUGH SOME INTER-
MEDIARY SUCH AS HUNGARY.
BUCHANAN

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